

TWIN SPICA

Kou Yaginuma



11

TWIN SPICA

11



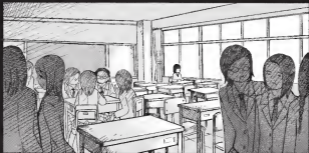
Kou Yaginuma

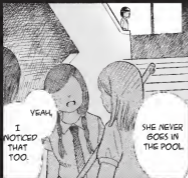


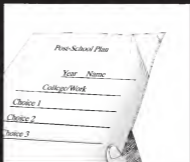
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ALWAYS
BE FRIENDS.



WE'LL
ALWAYS,
ALWAYS

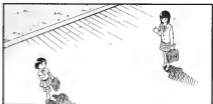
FRIENDS.

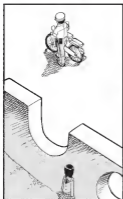
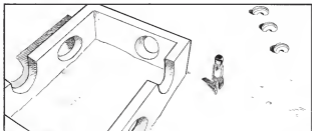
MISSION:53







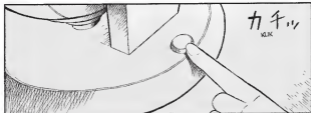


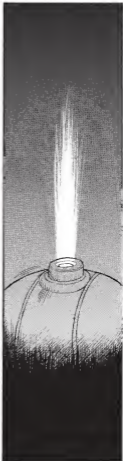




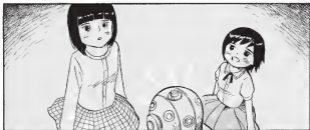




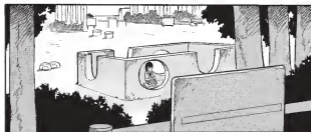
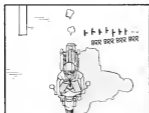






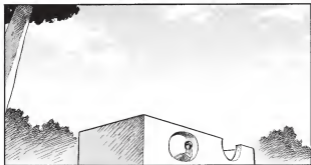


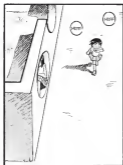


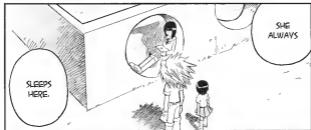






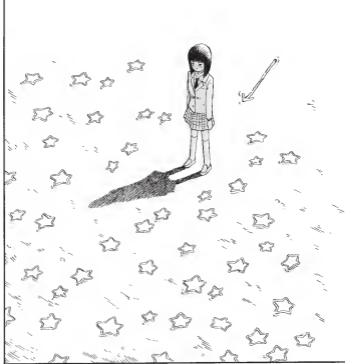








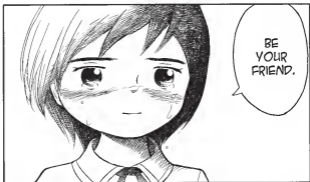










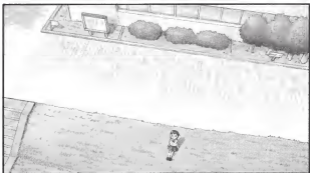


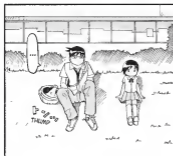


MISSION:54











BUT...



IF SHE
WANTS
THINGS TO
CHANGE.

SHE HAS
TO FIGURE
IT OUT
FOR
HERSELF



THAT'S NOT
TSK
SOMETHING
YOU CAN
HELP HER
WITH.



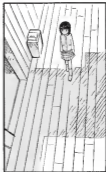
MIGHT
BE A
SIGN

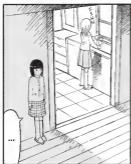
THAT SHE
WANTS TO
CHANGE.

HER
RUNNING
AWAY



YOU,
KAMO-
SAWA,
JUST
KEEP
BEING
FRIENDLY
TO HER.







YOU CAN TELL
THE DISTANCE
TO STARS
DUE TO
PARALLAX.

ANYTHING
CLOSE TO
THE CAR
FLIES PAST

WHILE
FARWAY
BUILDINGS
SEEM TO
STAND STILL

IT'S LIKE
WHEN YOU
LOOK AT THE
SCENERY
FROM THE
WINDOW OF
A MOVING
CAR.

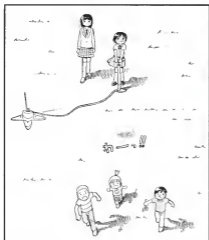
ARE FOUR
LIGHT-YEARS
AWAY.

EVEN
THE
STARS
CLOSEST
TO EARTH,
PROXIMA
AND ALPHA
CENTAURI,

YOU CAN
MEASURE
DISTANCE
BASED ON
THAT
MOVEMENT.

AND
FARTHER
STARS LOOK
STILL. CLOSER
STARS
MOVE
FASTER,

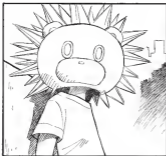






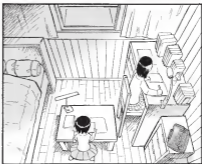




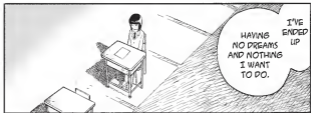






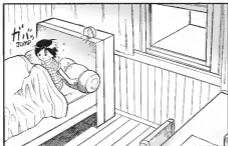




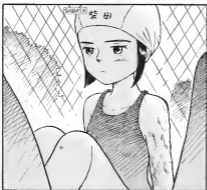
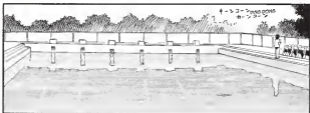










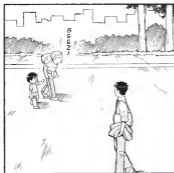


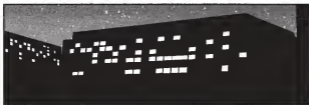






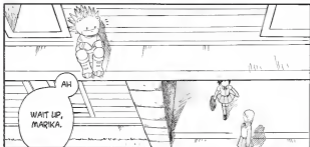






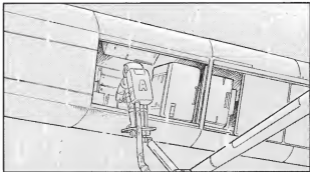


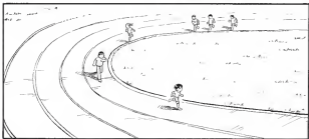
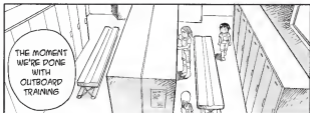




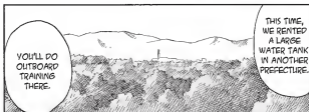




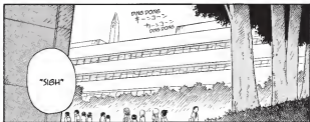






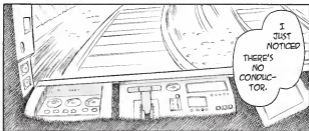






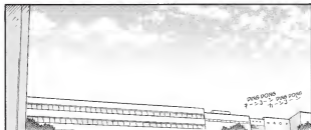


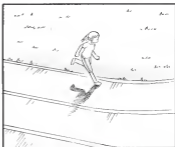




















THE GROUP IS UNDER THE SOLE CONTROL OF THE HEAD OF THE UKITA FAMILY.

THEY'VE BEEN MAKING MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND MEDICINE SINCE BEFORE THE WAR.



HER,

MARIKA UKITA.



AND

SENRI UKITA'S ONLY CHILD IS

TAP TAP TAP



BUT THERE MUST BE A PIC OF HIM.



IT SEEMS HE NEVER SAUNTERS FORTH FROM BEHIND THE STAGE.

SENRI UKITA HATES HIS GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS.



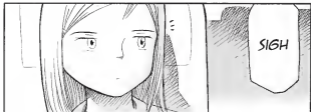
HUH.

SO SHE'S A LITTLE RICH GIRL.

MARIKA UKITA.







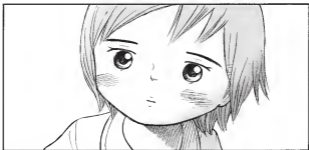
THERE'S
SOMETHING
ONLY
HUMANS
CAN DO.

MR. LION
SAID



WHAT
WOULD
IT BE
?

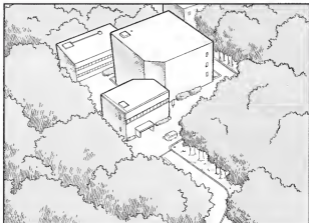
IF THERE'S
SOMETHING
ONLY
I COULD
DO,



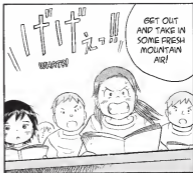


MISSION:56



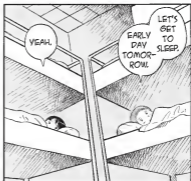


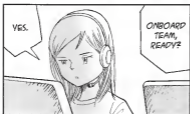
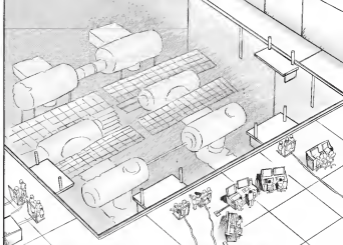


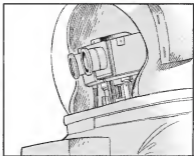




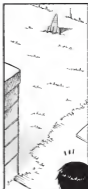


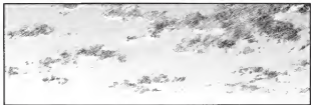


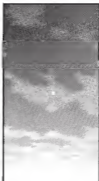




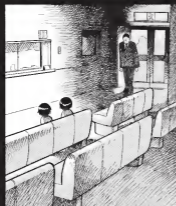












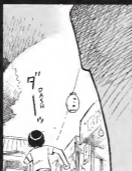




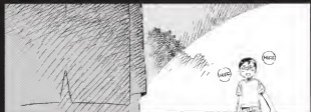
















WE JUST
WANT
ONE SHOT
WITH HER.

JUST ONE
PICTURE
WOULD BE
FINE.



I'VE
NEVER
SEEN HIM.

LOOK
SO
DOWN.

HE'S
DUMB,
BUT HE'S
REALLY
A NICE
GUY!



I SAID
DRIVE
!!



DRIVE.

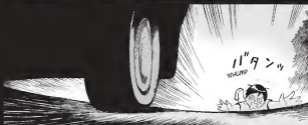
SIR
!!

BUT,
UM...



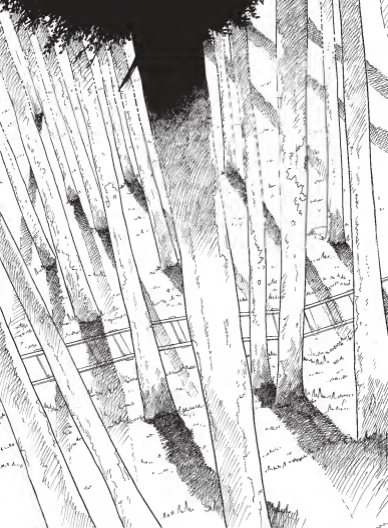
JUST
ONE
DAY!

PLEASE
SIR!







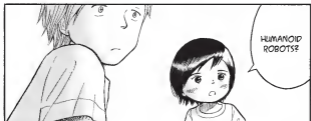




MISSION:57







THAT THIS PLACE
IS A FACILITY
THAT'S DEVELOPING
ROBOTS TO WORK
ON SPACESHIPS.



THE



THAT
OBRE
COACH
TOLD US

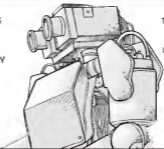


APPARENTLY
THE ROBOTS
RUN ON
HYDROGEN
ENERGY
CREATED FROM
HYDROELECTRICITY
FROM THE DAM.



HE SAYS
THERE'S
A DAM
NEAR
HERE.

THE ROBOTS ARE
POWERED BY
CLEAN ENERGY
AND ARE
ENVIRONMENTALLY
FRIENDLY.



THEY PRODUCE
NO CO₂.
THEY DON'T
NEED DIAPERS,
SO TO
SPEAK.

FROM THE OUTSIDE,
YOU CAN'T TELL
WHICH ONE OF
US IS HUMAN.

IT'S LIKE
THEY DID
IT TO
SPITE US.

I WON'T
LOSE TO
A ROBOT
!!



FOR US,
THOUGH,
THAT
WASN'T
COOL.



SINCE THEY'RE STILL
IN DEVELOPMENT,
THEY PUT THEM
IN SPACE SUITS.



BUT
IN THE
SECOND
HALF...



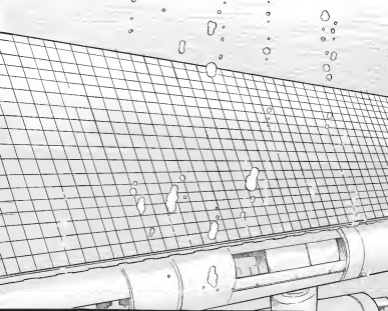
THE ROBOTS
WERE A
LOT LESS
AGILE
THAN I
THOUGHT.

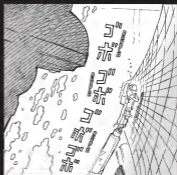
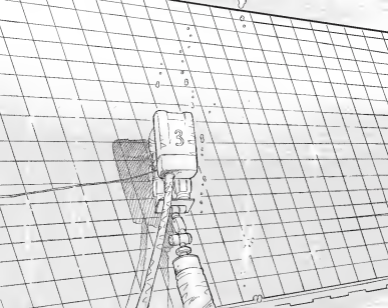


THERE WERE
A LOT OF SMALL
TASKS THAT
NEEDED
DEXTERITY.



WE DID
WELL AT
FIRST.



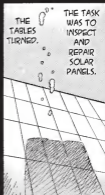




IT WAS
EXHAUSTING,
BOTH
PHYSICALLY
AND
MENTALLY.



IT WAS
SIMPLE,
BUT
TEDIOUS.



THE
TABLES
TURNED.

THE TASK
WAS TO
INSPECT
AND
REPAIR
SOLAR
PANELS.



SO MANY
LEFT...

UGH!



THE
TASK
WAS
SO
SIMPLE,
THE ROBOTS
SEEMED TO
SPEED UP
AS THEY
WENT
ALONG.



NEVER
SHOWED
SIGNS OF
FADING.



OF
COURSE,
THE ROBOTS
...

BLURRY
TEXT



WHY
ARE YOU
SLOWING
DOWN?

BEFORE
I REALIZED,
IT WAS
DONE.

THE
ROBOTS
ALREADY
FINISHED!



IT
MUST'VE
BEEN A
PATHETIC
SIGHT.

COME
ON!

SET A
HOLD OF
YOURSELF



I COULDN'T
CONCENTRATE.

UH,

WHICH
ONE?



MY GRIP
WAS
WEAKENING.

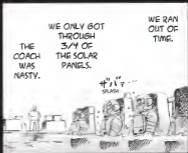
30
MINUTES
LEFT!

AH.



WHAT
HURT
THE
MOST
WAS
...

BUT



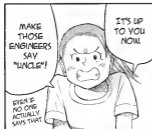
WE ONLY GOT
THROUGH
3/4 OF
THE SOLAR
PANELS.

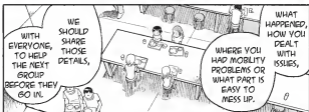
THE
COACH
WAS
NASTY.

WE RAN
OUT OF
TIME.

ザバァ...
SPLASH





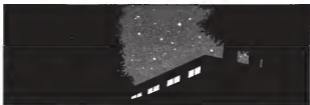






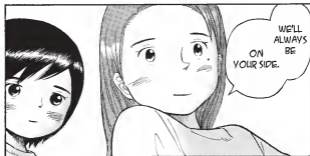




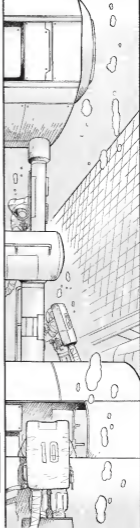
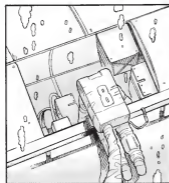
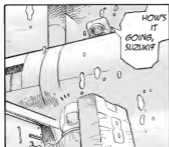


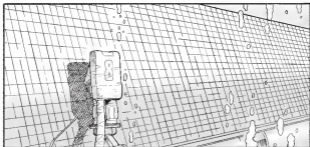


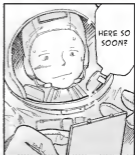
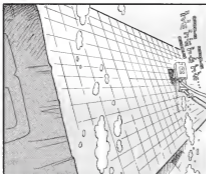


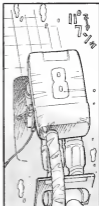


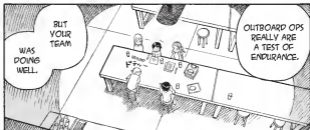


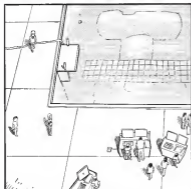




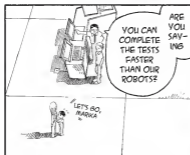




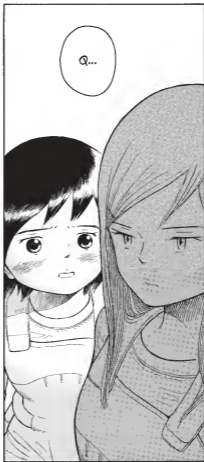


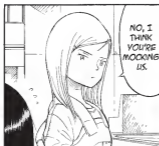










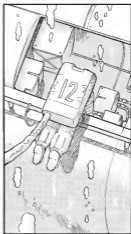
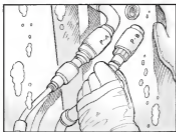
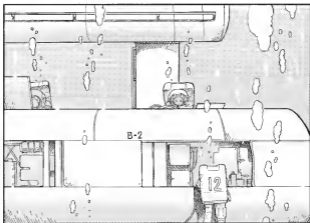


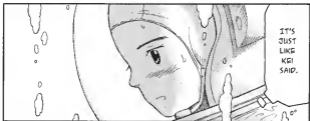
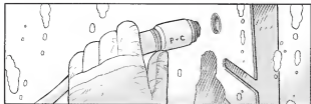


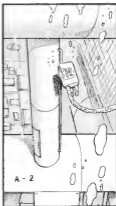
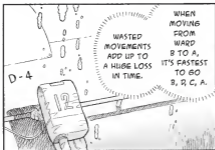


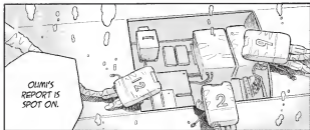
MISSION:58

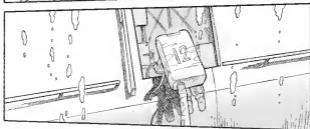
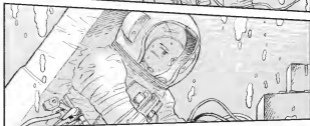


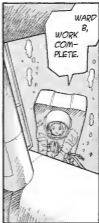
















SHE'S FAR
STRONGER
THAN SHE
LOOKS!

YOU
ENGINEERS
ARE
SLAVES OF
PAST DATA.
THAT'S YOUR
WEAKNESS.



I FIGURED
KIDS IN
THE SPACE
PROGRAM
WOULD BE
BIG AND
STRONG.
WHAT
A SUR-
PRISE.

HM?
KAMO-
GAWA?



TINY
GIRL
INTO
SPACE?

YOU
REALLY
WANT
TO SEND
THAT

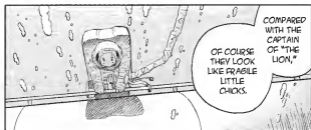


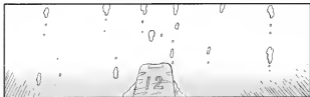
ARE VERY
TOUGH.

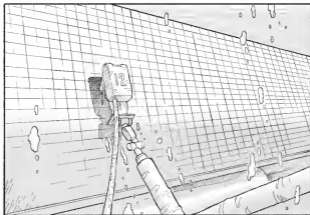
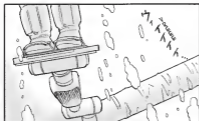
IT'S NOT
JUST
KAMO-
GAWA.
ALL OF
MY
STUDENTS

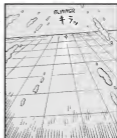
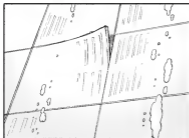


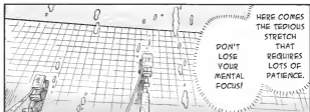
BUT THEY'RE
NO MATCH
FOR YOUR
DAD.











DON'T
LOSE
YOUR
MENTAL
FOCUS!

HERE COMES
THE TEDIOUS
STRETCH
THAT
REQUIRES
LOTS OF
PATIENCE.



SO COVER
FOR IT
WITH FOCUS!

ESPE-
CIALY
MARIKA,

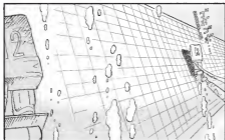
YOU
LACK
ENDURANCE,

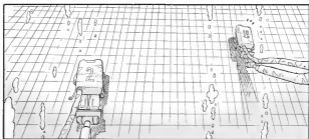


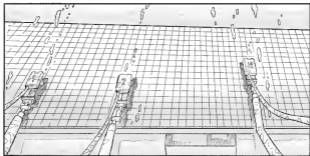
SHE'S THE
BIGGEST
BUSYBODY
IN THE
UNIVERSE.

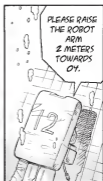


SHE'S
NOT
NAIVE
...











BUT
THERE'S
NO NEED
TO HALT
THE TEST.

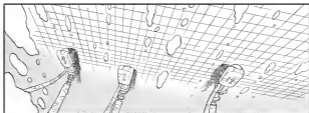
WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO?



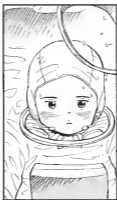
I DON'T
KNOW
WHY IT
FAILED.
IT'LL TAKE
SOME
TIME
TO FIX.

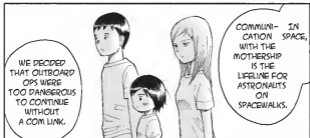
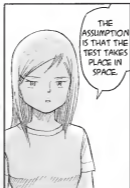
HMM
...

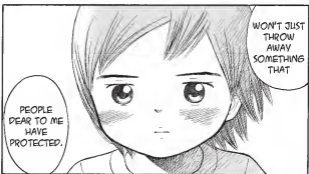
WELL
?







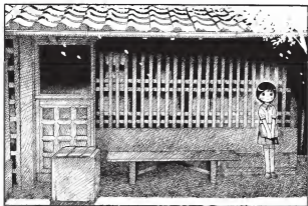








ANOTHER SPICA



KOU YAGINUMA

and for
winter only,
corn soup for
200 yen.



The menu:
freshly-
squeezed
orange juice
for 360 yen,
ham
sandwiches,



I was still working
at that theme park on
Tokyo Bay.



Winter,
many
years
ago.

WE'RE
GETTING
A TOUR
GROUP.

YASUNUMA,
CAN YOU
MAKE EXTRA
CORN
SOUP?

SURE.



nothing
could
increase
traffic
to our
store.

IT'S
COLD.



We
could
try
our
cutest
best,
but
...

PLEASE
COME TRY
OUR
YUMMY
CORN
SOUP!



FOUR
MORE
KILOS.

It
was
hard
work.



We had to
stir it for
a long time
to keep it
from
burning.

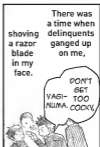
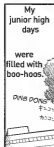
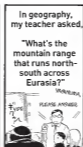
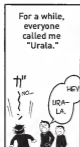


but the corn
soup was
properly
prepared
in a large
vat.

MY
HONESTY

It
didn't
seem
like
any-
thing
nice,







SHE'S BEEN
SITTING
THERE FOR
HOURS.



WHAT'S UP,
KAMOMI?

...



THE
ONE NOT
PART OF
ANY
CLIQUE.

I KNEW A
GIRL LIKE
THAT
WHEN
I WAS
IN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL.



That girl
stopped
coming
to school.



But not
everyone
can
carry on
as if
nothing
were
amiss.

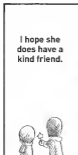
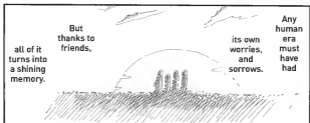


Once the tide
turned that
way,
it was hard
for them
to turn it
around.



I'd known
one,
too.





Notes on the Translation

P. 87

A “zaibatsu” is a conglomerate of firms owned by a family; the Mitsubishi Group is an example. After World War II, American occupation forces initially moved to disband zaibatsu for having wielded excessive influence. This policy, however, was reversed for anti-Communist reasons, in particular due to the Korean War, which rendered indispensable the logistical support that zaibatsu were capable of providing.



P. 110-112

Food stalls are a staple at traditional Japanese festivals, where “yaki-soba” and “takoyaki” are commonly on offer. The word “yaki” literally means *burn*, and in the context of food, *fry/cook*. Thus “yakisoba” are fried soba noodles, while “takoyaki” are balls of flour with a piece of octopus (“tako”) at the center. The recipe for the enticing “Yuigahama-yaki,” on the other hand, is a mystery. There does exist a Yuigahama (written with different characters) in the area of Japan where the fictional town also seems to be located, namely Kamakura. The historically important region boasts as many “specialty” foods and snacks as it does significant architecture. The real-life version of “Yuigahama-yaki,” if there is any, is therefore hard to pin down.



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Nicole Doehych
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